

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A packaging apparatus for a granular object having adsorption ability, comprising:

a heating device for heating a granular object having adsorption ability;

a charging device for charging the granular object into a storage bag having an end opening facing upward and an opposite closed end pressed flat;

a sealing device for pressing flat to seal the end opening facing upward of the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged; ~~and~~

a cooling device for cooling the storage bag with the granular object, having a support for supporting the storage bag with the granular object keeping the end sealed by the sealing device higher than the opposite closed end, the granular object being kept settled at a bottom pressed flat of the storage bag by the support; and

a pinching device having a bulged upper portion and a recessed lower portion for pressing an upper part of the storage bag where the granular object is not contained and a lower part of the storage bag where the granular object is settled, before the storage bag is sealed, so as to keep inner surfaces of the upper part without the granular object settled at the bottom of the storage bag into close contact with each other and to keep the granular object from moving when the storage bag sealed by the sealing device is cooled by the cooling device,

wherein the heating device is located upstream of the sealing device along the flowing direction of the granular object.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for packaging a granular object having adsorption ability of Claim 7, wherein the heating device heats the granular object to a temperature not lower than 55°C and not higher than 80°C.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for packaging a granular object having adsorption ability of Claim 7, wherein the support is of plate or rod being extended so as to hold the direction of connecting the part of the storage bag in which the granular object settled and the part of the storage bag sealed in a position along the direction of gravity or inclined to the direction of gravity.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for packaging a granular object having adsorption ability of Claim 9, wherein the support is of plate or rod being extended so as to hold the direction of connecting the part of the storage bag in which the granular object settled and the part of the storage bag sealed in a position along the direction of gravity or inclined to the direction of gravity.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a package packaging a granular object having an adsorption ability, comprising the steps of:

heating a granular object having an adsorption ability;

charging the granular object into a storage bag having an end opening facing upward and an opposite closed end pressed flat;

pressing flat to seal the end opening facing upward of the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged; ~~and~~

cooling the storage bag with the granular object kept to be settled at a bottom pressed flat of the storage bag, and

pressing an upper part of the storage bag where the granular object is not contained and a lower part of the storage bag where the granular object is settled, before the storage bag is sealed, so as to keep inner surfaces of the upper part without the granular object settled at the bottom of the storage bag into close contact with each other and to keep the granular object from moving when the sealed storage bag is cooled,

wherein the step of heating is conducted prior to the step of sealing.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a package, comprising the steps of:

supplying a granular object having adsorption ability to a packaging apparatus for a granular object having adsorption ability according to Claim 7;

heating the granular object with the heating device;

charging the granular object into a storage bag with the charging device;

sealing the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged with the sealing device;

cooling the sealed storage bag with the cooling device; and

taking the cooled storage bag out of the packaging apparatus as a package.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a package, comprising the steps of:

supplying a granular object having adsorption ability to a packaging apparatus for a granular object having adsorption ability according to Claim 9;

heating the granular object with the heating device;

charging the granular object into a storage bag with the charging device;

sealing the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged with the sealing device;

cooling the sealed storage bag with the cooling device; and

taking the cooled storage bag out of the packaging apparatus as a package.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a package, comprising the steps of:

supplying a granular object having adsorption ability to a packaging apparatus for a granular object having adsorption ability according to Claim 11;

heating the granular object with the heating device;
charging the granular object into a storage bag with the charging device;
sealing the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged with the sealing device;
cooling the sealed storage bag with the cooling device; and
taking the cooled storage bag out of the packaging apparatus as a package.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a package, comprising the steps of:

supplying a granular object having adsorption ability to a packaging apparatus for a granular object having adsorption ability according to Claim 13;
heating the granular object with the heating device;
charging the granular object into a storage bag with the charging device;
sealing the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged with the sealing device;
cooling the sealed storage bag with the cooling device; and
taking the cooled storage bag out of the packaging apparatus as a package.

22. (New) The apparatus for packaging a granular object having adsorption ability of Claim 7, further comprising:

a cutting device for cutting the storage bag sealed with the sealing device to make a package, the package comprising one or more packets, each packet being an independent sealed bag containing the granular object; and

a receiving table located below the cutting device for reducing falling speed of the package while the package is falling toward the cooling device.

23. (New) The apparatus for packaging a granular object having adsorption ability of Claim 22, wherein the receiving table comprises a shock absorbing roller for further reducing falling speed of the package.

24. (New) The method for producing a package packaging a granular object having adsorption ability of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

cutting the sealed storage bag to make a package, the package comprising one or more packets, each packet being an independent sealed bag containing the granular object; and

reducing falling speed of the package before the cooling step.